

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

NO.
145 US \$2.19



SEGA

SONIC™



THE HEDGEHOG

SHADOW
RETURNS ...



... AND
SONIC
DOESN'T STAND
A CHANCE!





SHADOW WAS CREATED ONBOARD
A LAB LOCATED IN GEOSYNCH
ORBIT OVER THE PLANET MOBIUS,
AND ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED
A PRODUCT, A CONSTRUCTION,
A WEAPON, ANYTHING BUT
WHAT IT TRULY WAS,
A BIOMECHANICAL LIFEFORM!

By EVERY KNOWN DEFINITION,
IT WAS SENTIENT!
IT COULD THINK, REASON...
AND FEEL!

SINCE THE DEATH OF ITS
CREATOR SHORTLY AFTER
ACTIVATION, THERE HAVE BEEN
MANY QUESTIONS AND
ZERO ANSWERS...

**...SO FAR, THAT IS.
SHADOW'S QUEST BEGINS HERE...**

SHADOWS OF HOPE

THEY'VE BEEN
COMING HERE LIKE
CLOCKWORK THE
PAST SEVERAL
WEEKS--

--DOING THE SAME
THING OVER AND
OVER! WHY?
TO WHAT
PURPOSE?

SPECIAL THANKS TO
ROBERT LEFTLER
AND DYNA LOPEZ
AT SEGA LICENSING

IN ANSWER TO A
ZILLION READER
REQUESTS...

KEN PENDERS/Writer • RON LIM/Penciler • AL MILGROM/Inker
JOHN WORKMAN/Letterer • JASON JENSEN/Colorist

...PRESENT A SMALL
GLIMPSE OF THE
SAGA OF SHADOW!

MIKE PELLERITO/EDITOR • VICTOR GORELICK/MANAGING EDITOR • RICHARD GOLDWATER/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SHE
LOOKS
LIKE
MARIA--

--BUT SHE
SAYS HER
NAME IS
HOPE!

NO MATTER!
I'VE ALREADY
DELAYED
ENOUGH
AS IT IS!

IDENTIFY
YOURSELF--

--OR ELSE BE
CONSIDERED A
FOE!

I AM NEITHER
FRIEND NOR FOE--

--JUST SOMEONE IN *NEED*
OF YOUR ABILITIES!

IN MY
DESIRE TO
CONFRONT
THE
CREATURE,
I HAD
CARE-
LESSLY
OVER-
LOOKED
THE
POSSI-
BILITY--

--THAT I MIGHT DRAW
INNOCENTS INTO THE
LINE OF FIRE!

OH!

IT'S
HIM!

THE
CHOICE IS
YOURS!

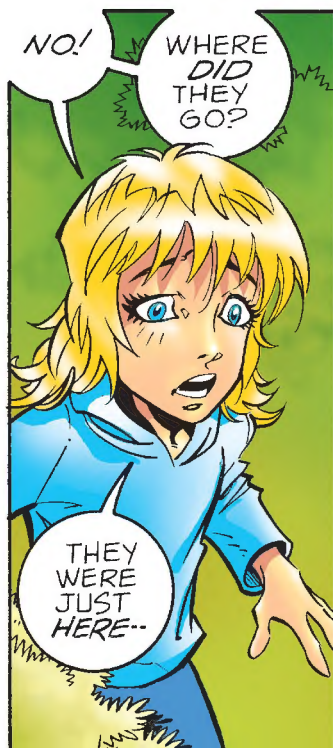
THEN I CHOOSE
NOT TO BE
INVOLVED
WITH YOUR
AFFAIRS!

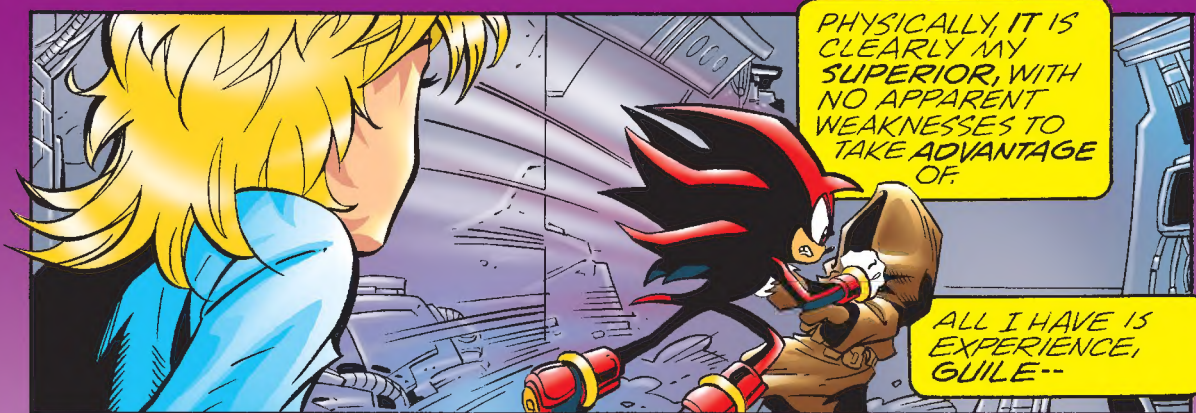
I
RESPECT
YOUR
DECISION--

--THOUGH I'M
AFRAID I CAN'T
TAKE "NO"
FOR AN
ANSWER!

THWIIIP!

WHUMP!





PHYSICALLY, IT IS
CLEARLY MY
SUPERIOR, WITH
NO APPARENT
WEAKNESSES TO
TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF.

ALL I HAVE IS
EXPERIENCE,
GUILE--

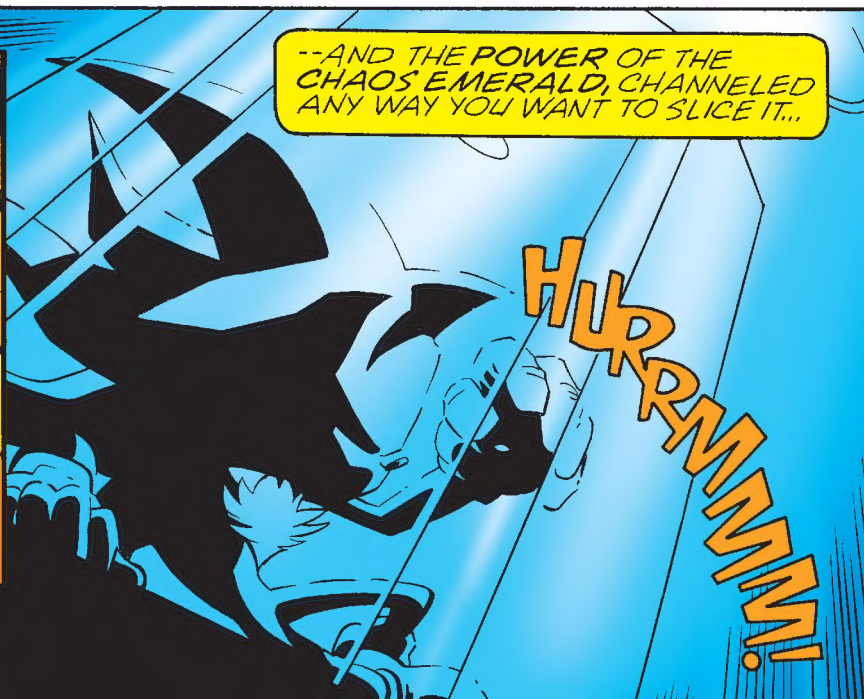


--A KNOWLEDGE OF
THE COMBAT ARTS--

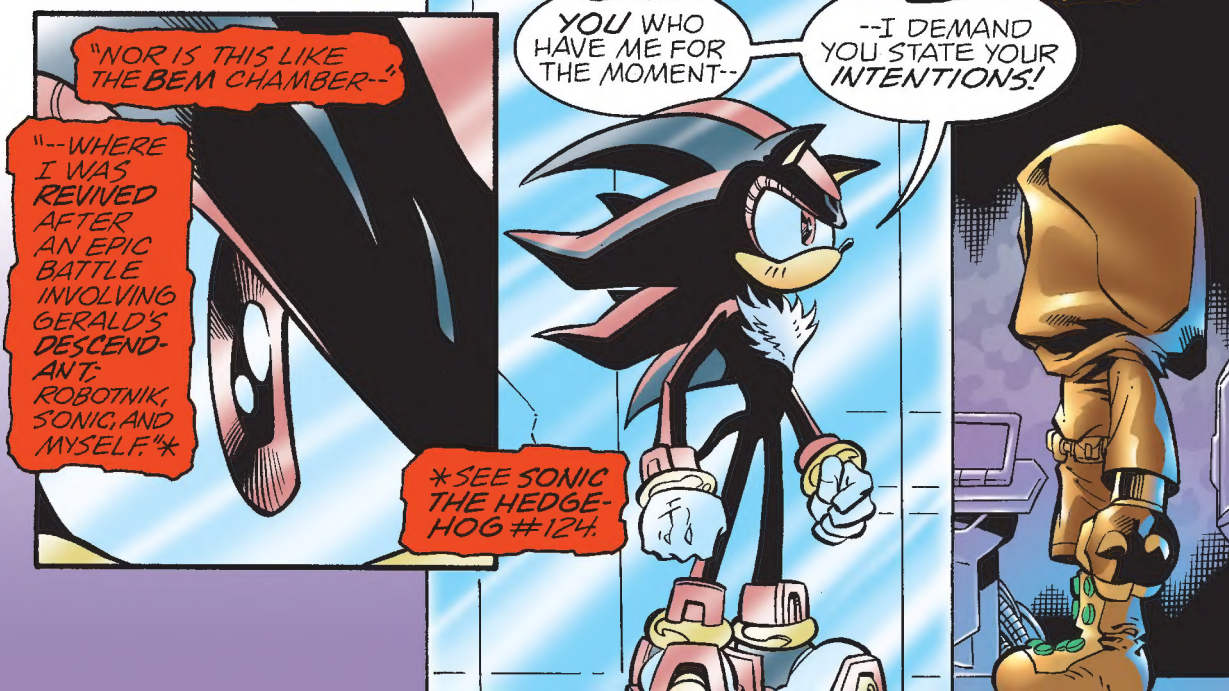
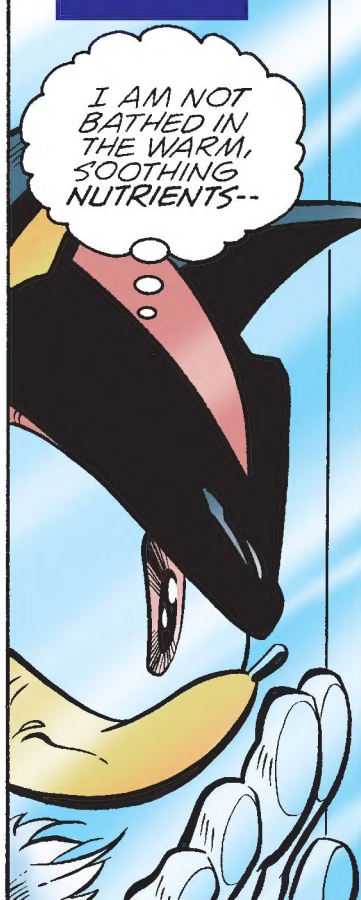
THUDD

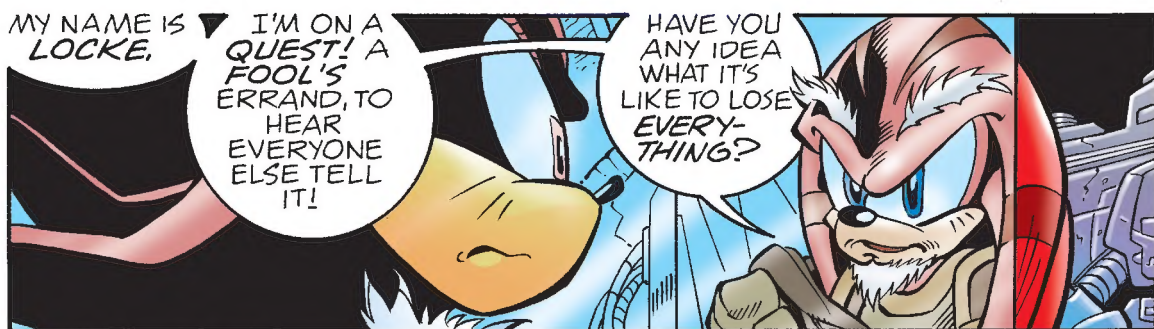


--AND THE POWER OF THE
CHAOS EMERALD, CHANNLED
ANY WAY YOU WANT TO SLICE IT...



HURRRNNNN!

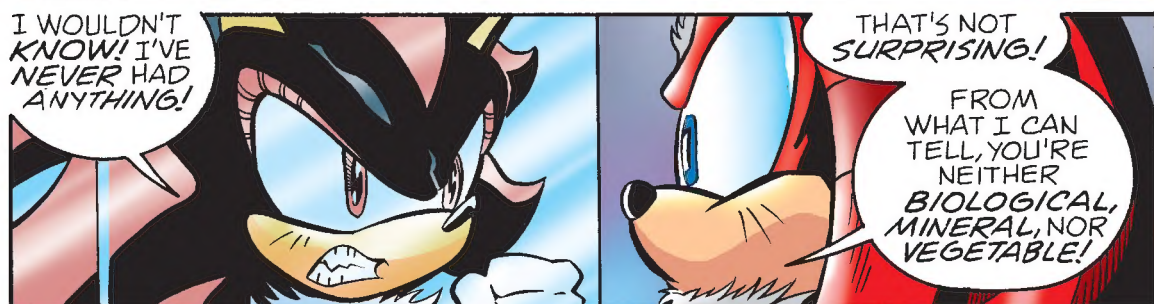




MY NAME IS **LOCKE**.

I'M ON A **QUEST!** A **FOOL'S** ERRAND, TO HEAR EVERYONE ELSE TELL IT!

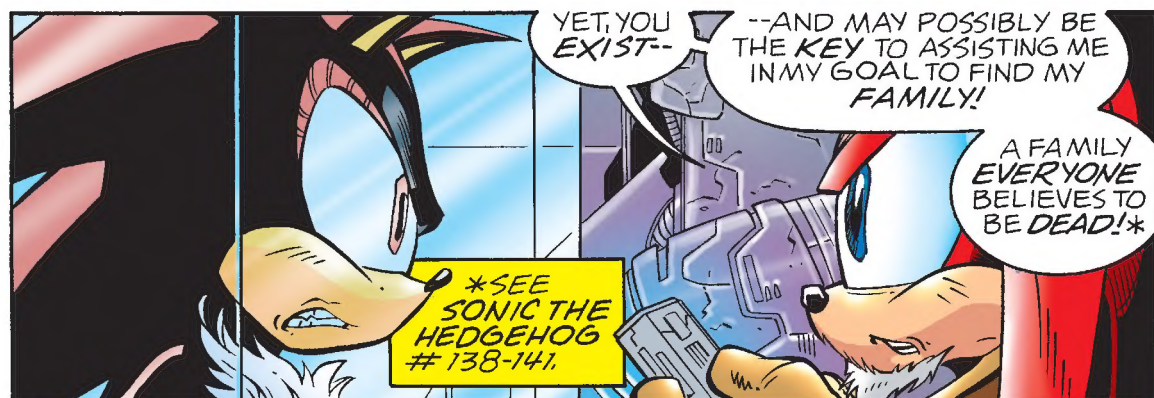
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE **EVERY-THING?**



I WOULDN'T **KNOW!** I'VE NEVER HAD ANYTHING!

THAT'S NOT **SURPRISING!**

FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, YOU'RE NEITHER **BIOLOGICAL, MINERAL, NOR VEGETABLE!**

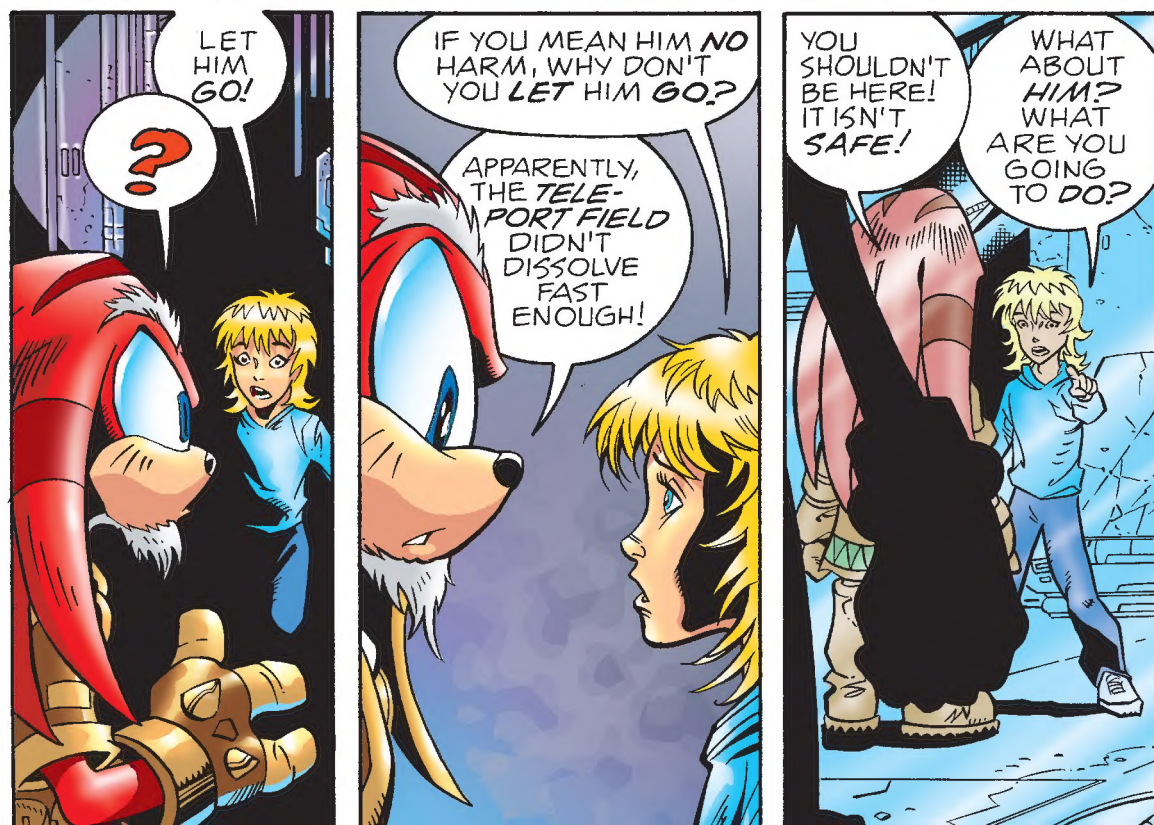


YET, YOU **EXIST--**

--AND MAY POSSIBLY BE THE **KEY** TO ASSISTING ME IN MY GOAL TO FIND MY **FAMILY!**

A FAMILY **EVERYONE** BELIEVES TO BE **DEAD!***

***SEE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG # 138-141.**



LET HIM **GO!**

?

IF YOU MEAN HIM **NO** HARM, WHY DON'T YOU **LET HIM GO?**

APPARENTLY, THE **TELE-PORT FIELD** DIDN'T DISSOLVE FAST ENOUGH!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE! IT ISN'T **SAFE!**

WHAT ABOUT **HIM?** WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO **DO?**

AS I APPROACHED THE GIRL, IT HADN'T DAWNED ON ME WHAT REACTIONS I WAS PROVOKING WITHIN THE CREATURE--THAT IT WAS ASSOCIATING THE PRESENT WITH WHAT HAPPENED IN ITS PAST--

YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND!

--THAT I WAS THE MATCH--

--LIGHTING THE FUSE--

--SETTING OFF THE EXPLOSION!

THUDD!

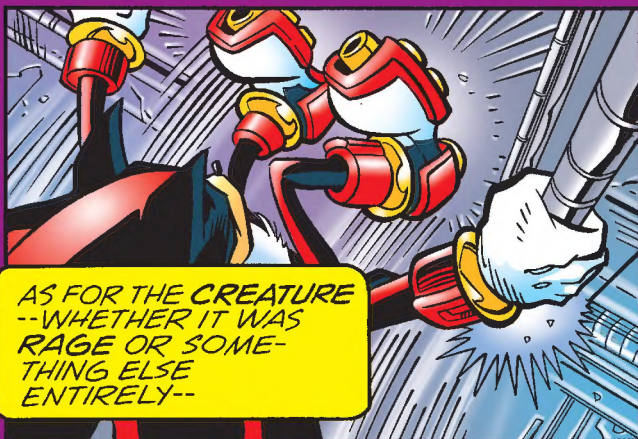
JUST WHEN MATTERS SEEMED AT THEIR MOST DIRE--



--I INFORM HIM I ALSO WIELD THE POWER CHAOS!

WHILE NOWHERE NEAR THE RANGE MY SON HAS DEMONSTRATED--

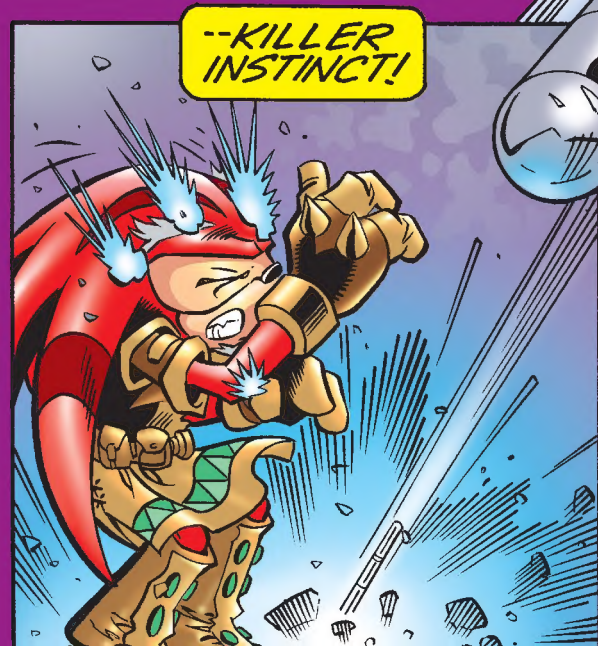
--BUT WHAT I WAS CAPABLE OF WAS MORE THAN SUFFICIENT!



AS FOR THE CREATURE --WHETHER IT WAS RAGE OR SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY--

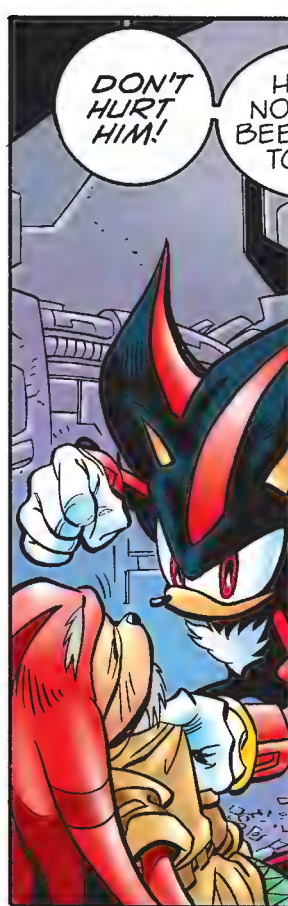


--IT WAS PROVING IT HAD SOMETHING I LACKED--



--KILLER INSTINCT!



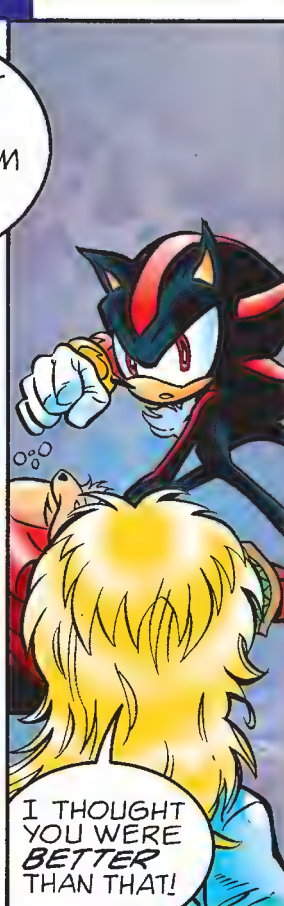


DON'T
HURT
HIM!

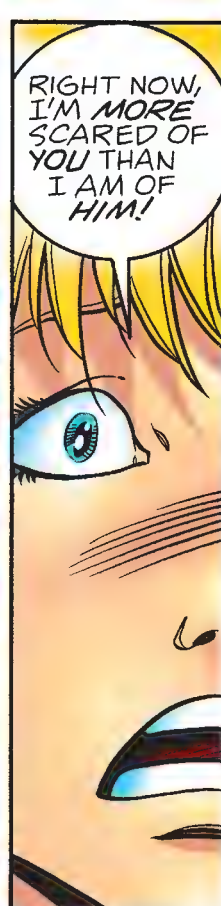
HE MAY
NOT HAVE
BEEN NICE
TO YOU--



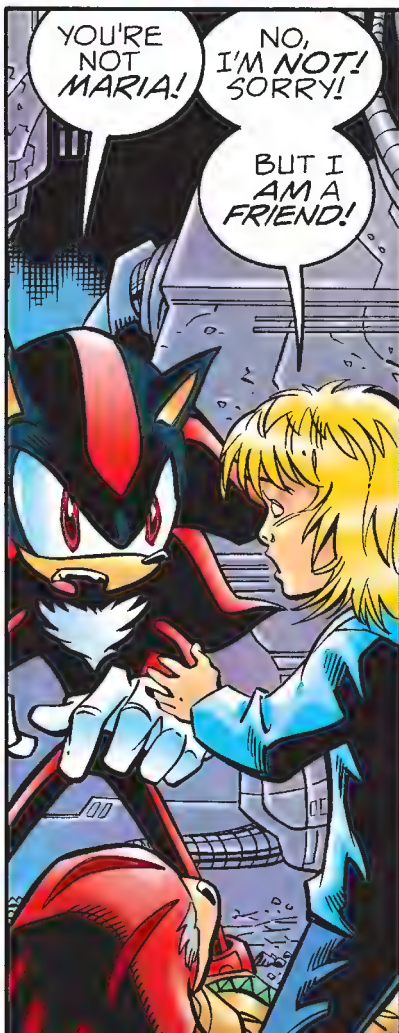
--BUT THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN YOU
CAN TREAT HIM
THE SAME
WAY!



I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
BETTER
THAN THAT!



RIGHT NOW,
I'M *MORE*
SCARED OF
YOU THAN
I AM OF
HIM!



YOU'RE
NOT
MARIA!

NO,
I'M *NOT*!
SORRY!

BUT I
AM A
FRIEND!



YOU'RE
NOT
MARIA--

--I DON'T
NEED ANY
FRIENDS!

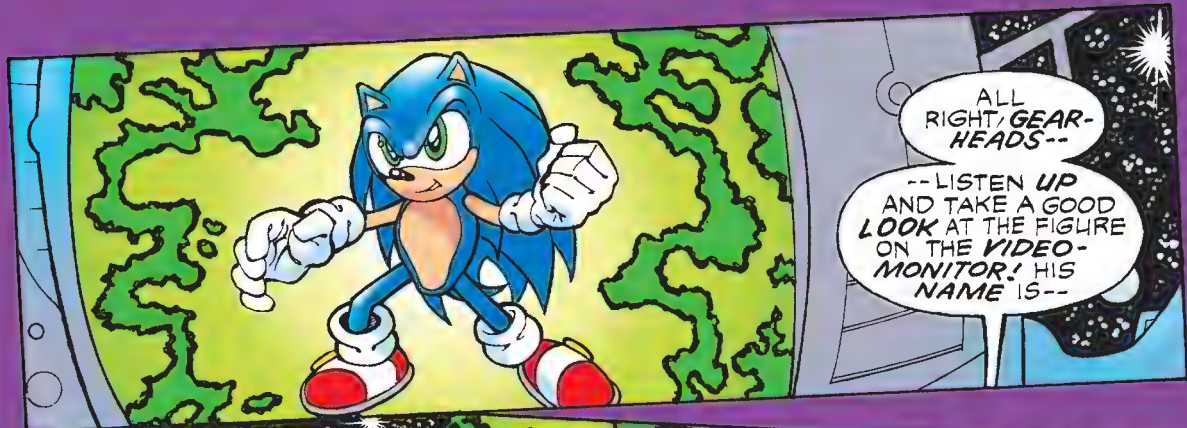


THINGS
DIDN'T GO
SO WELL
TODAY,
HOPE--

--BUT
THERE'S
ALWAYS
TOMORROW!

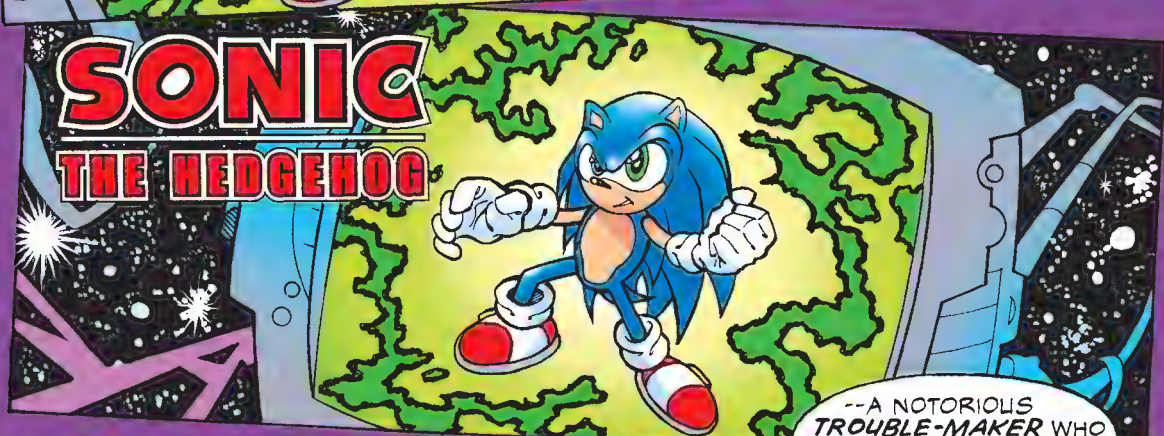
NOW,
LET'S
GET
YOU
HOME.

THE END
...FOR NOW.



ALL
RIGHT, GEAR-
HEADS--

-- LISTEN UP
AND TAKE A GOOD
LOOK AT THE FIGURE
ON THE VIDEO-
MONITOR! HIS
NAME IS--



--A NOTORIOUS
TROUBLE-MAKER WHO
SERVES THE KINGDOM
OF ACORN! I DESPISE
HIS BLUE HIDE WITH
EVERY OUNCE OF MY
BEING --

--AND SO
SHOULD
YOU!

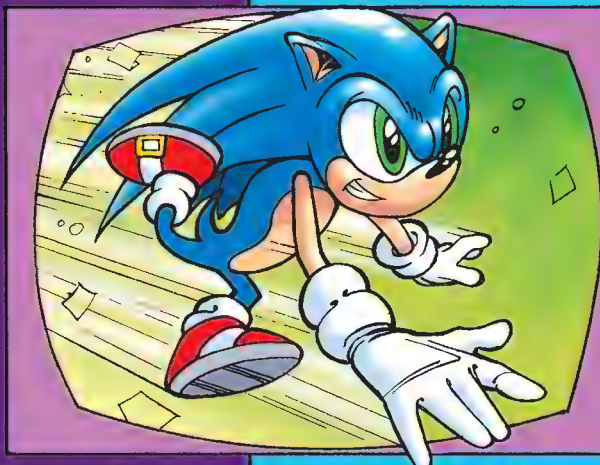
DOCTOR ROBOTNIK
TRAINING
DAY

KARL
BOLLERS-
STORY

AL BIGLEY-PENCILS

MICHAEL HIGGINS-INKS & LETTERS

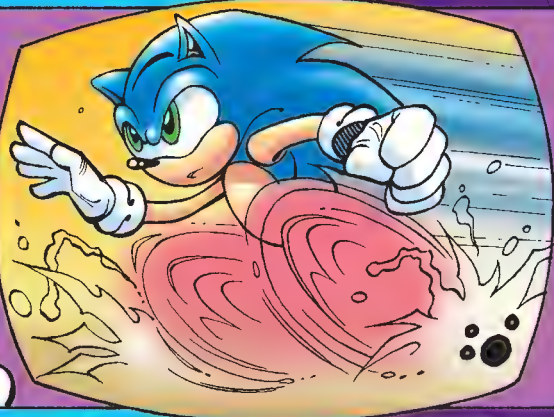
JASON JENSEN-COLORS



MAKE NO *MISTAKE* —
WHETHER HE'S USING HIS SUPER
SPEED TO PERFORM A FIGURE
EIGHT *MOVE*, WHIRLWIND
ATTACK--



--OR THE EVER-*CLASSIC* SPIN
DASH, *DON'T* LET THE FANCY
FOOTWORK FOOL YOU--



--*THIS* ROTTEN APPLE DESIRES
NOTHING *MORE* THAN THE FALL
OF MY *EGGMAN EMPIRE*--

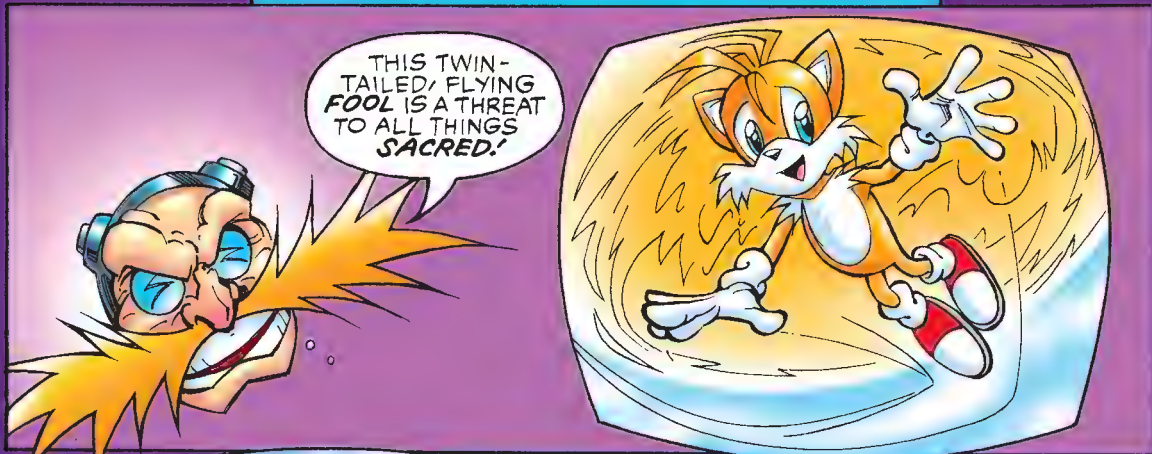
--AND WON'T
STOP *UNTIL* WE
STOP HIM...
PERMANENTLY!



NEXT UP IS HIS
ABLE *ACCOMPLICE*,
MILES PROWER,
A. K. A.--

TAILS





THIS TWIN-
TAILED, FLYING
FOOL IS A THREAT
TO ALL THINGS
SACRED!



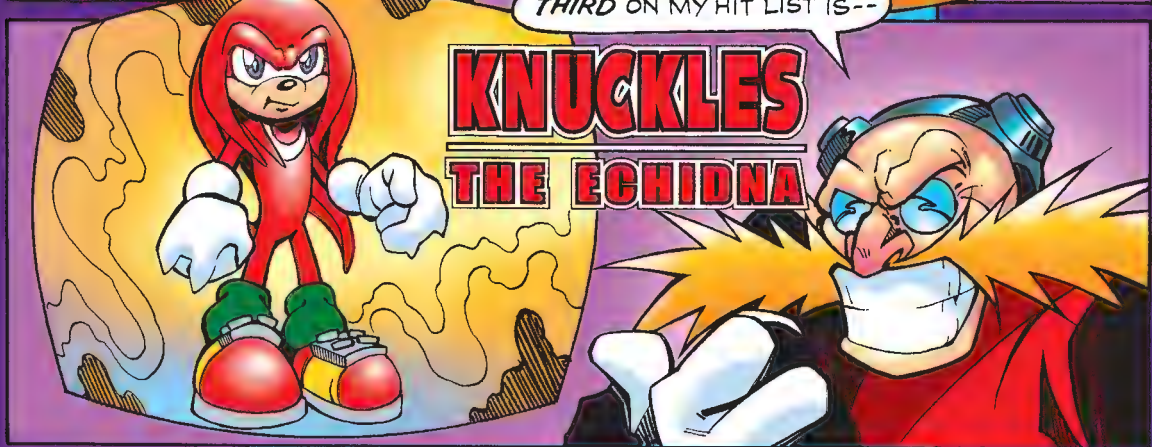
WHEN INSIDE THE **COCKPIT** OF HIS
AERIAL FIGHTING-MACHINE, '**THE
TORNADO**', THIS FEARSOME FOX
IS THE **SCOURGE** OF THE
SKIES--



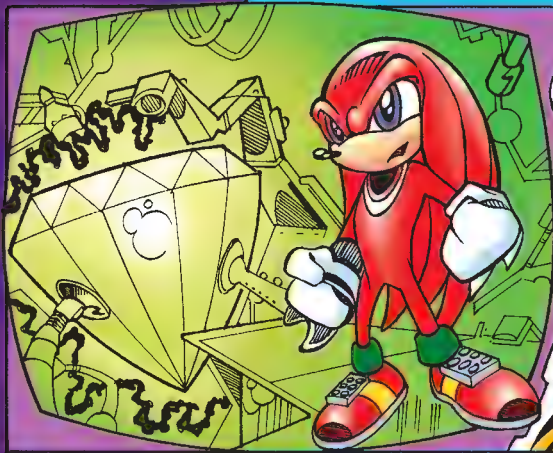
--AND THE **ONLY** THING THAT SICKENS ME
MORE THAN HIS PRODIGY-LIKE SKILL WITH
MACHINERY OF ALL SHAPES AND **SIZES**--

--IS HIS
NAUSEA-INDUCING
FRIENDSHIP WITH
THAT MALEVOLENT
HEDGEHOG!

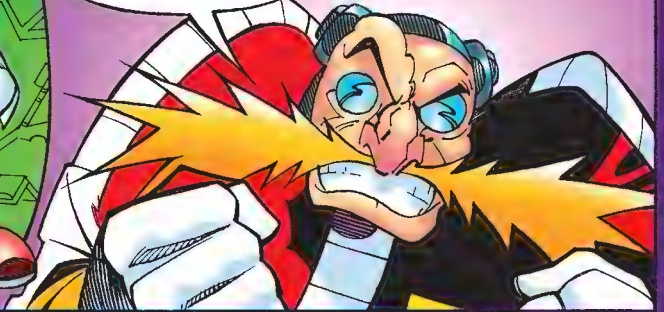
THIRD ON MY HIT LIST IS--



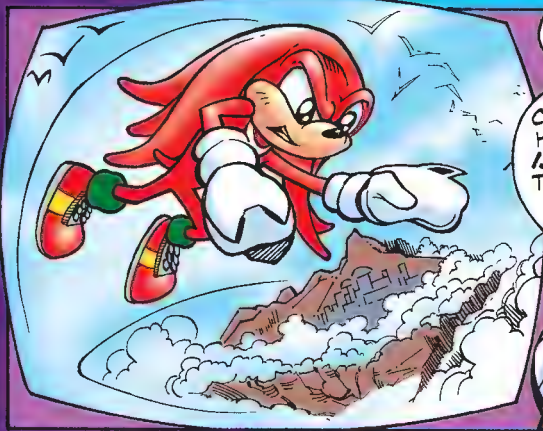
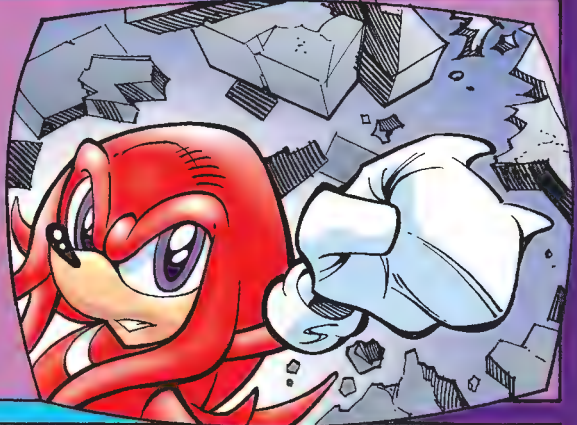
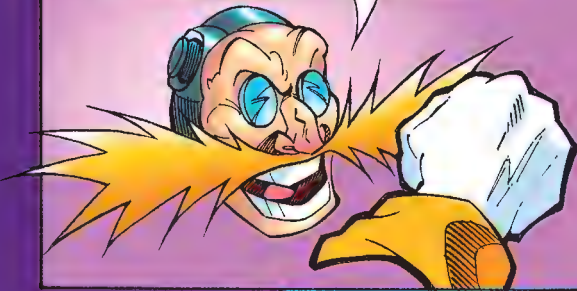
KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA



THIS FORMER
**GUARDIAN OF THE
POWERFUL MASTER
EMERALD--**



--IN ADDITION TO **GLIDING**, USES HIS
ENHANCED **STRENGTH** TO PUNCH,
DIG, AND CLIMB THROUGH **ANY**
AND ALL OBSTACLES!



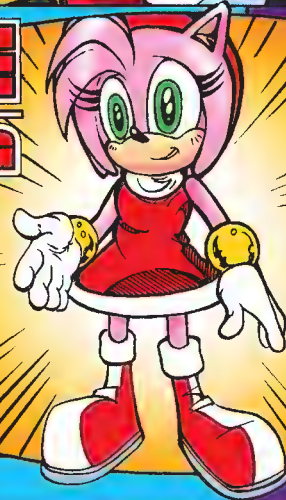
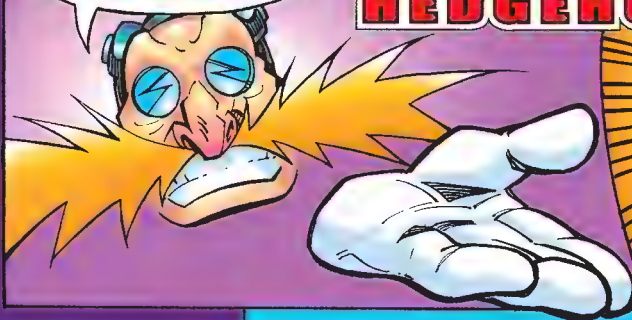
I'D **STICK** TO STRICTLY LONG-RANGE
ATTACKS IF I WERE YOU!

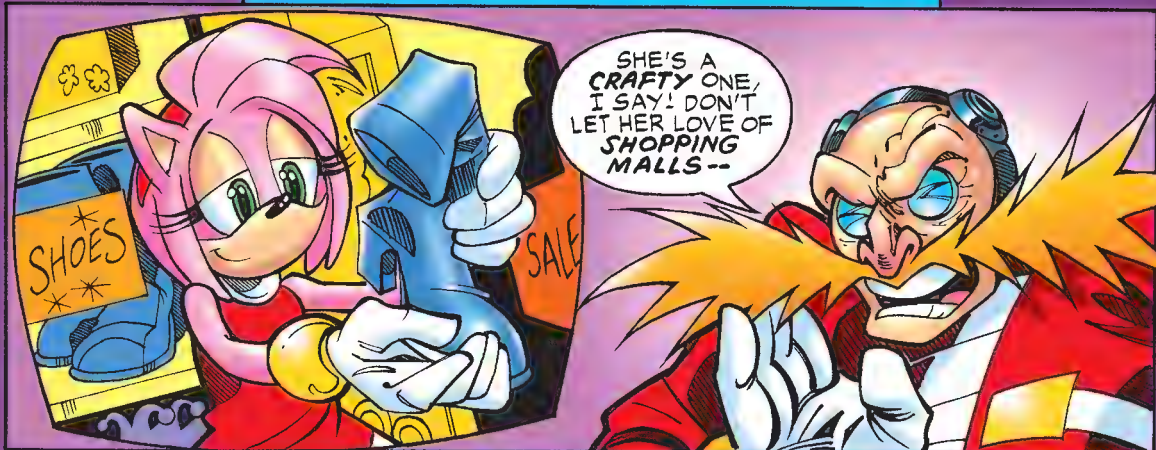
ALTHOUGH HE'S
CURRENTLY **AWAY** FROM
HIS HOME ON **ANGEL
ISLAND** SERVING WITH
THE KINGDOM OF **ACORN**,
KNUCKLES IS A
LEVEL-A THREAT!



LAST, BUT **CERTAINLY**
NOT THE LEAST **GOOD-
LOOKING** OF THE **BUNCH**,
IS A RIDDLE WRAPPED
IN A **RED DRESS--**

AMY ROSE HEDGEHOG





SHE'S A CRAFTY ONE, I SAY! DON'T LET HER LOVE OF SHOPPING MALLS--



--OR HER SCHOOLGIRL INFATUATION WITH SONIC AFFECT YOUR JUDGEMENT! SHE'S EVERY BIT THE MENACE THAT HE IS--



--PLUS HER TAROT CARD DECK AND MYSTICAL PICO PICO HAMMER MAKE HER A ROSE WITH VERY DANGEROUS THORNS!



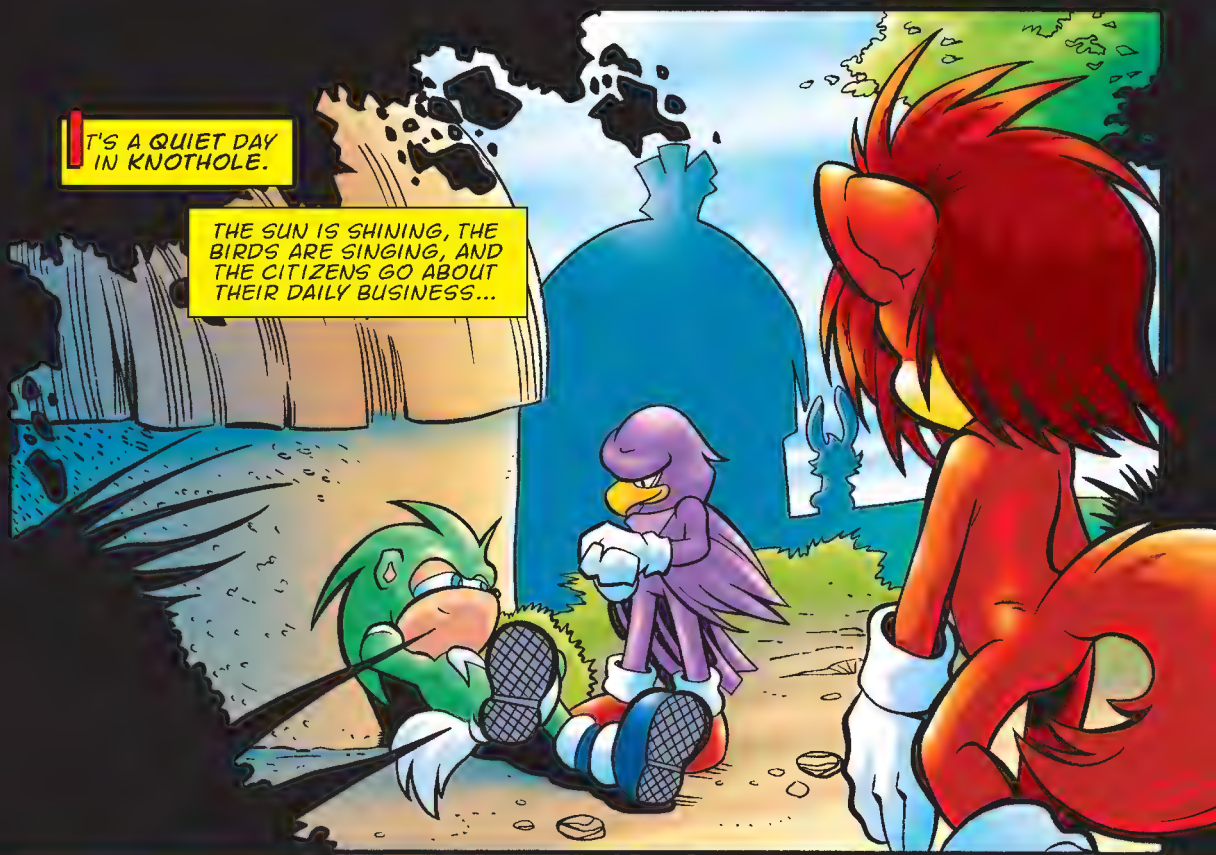
THESE VILE VERMIN ARE YOUR WORST ENEMIES AND ARE TO BE TERMINATED ON SIGHT! DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?

YES-DOCTOR-ROBOTNIK...

END

IT'S A QUIET DAY
IN KNOTHOLE.

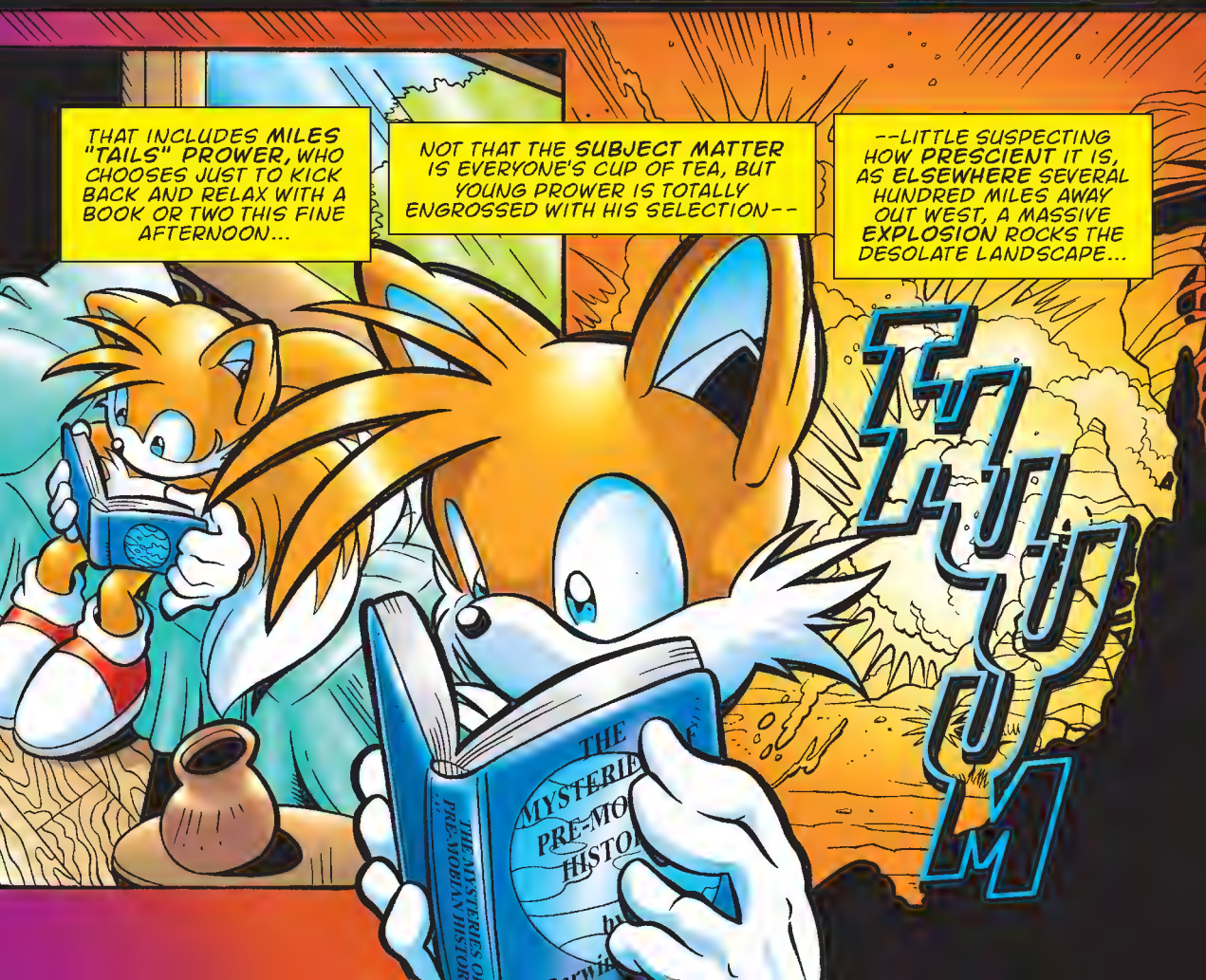
THE SUN IS SHINING, THE
BIRDS ARE SINGING, AND
THE CITIZENS GO ABOUT
THEIR DAILY BUSINESS...



THAT INCLUDES MILES
"TAILS" PROWER, WHO
CHOOSSES JUST TO KICK
BACK AND RELAX WITH A
BOOK OR TWO THIS FINE
AFTERNOON...

NOT THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER
IS EVERYONE'S CUP OF TEA, BUT
YOUNG PROWER IS TOTALLY
ENGROSSSED WITH HIS SELECTION--

--LITTLE SUSPECTING
HOW PRESCIENT IT IS,
AS ELSEWHERE SEVERAL
HUNDRED MILES AWAY
OUT WEST, A MASSIVE
EXPLOSION ROCKS THE
DESOLATE LANDSCAPE...



AS THE SHOCKWAVES
REVERBERATE AND THE DUST
ATTEMPTS TO SETTLE, BACK
IN KNOTHOLE WE FIND

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

ENGAGING IN A FRIENDLY
GAME OF DARTS WITH
SEVERAL FRIENDS...

BET YA
CAN'T EVEN
HIT THE
BOARD!

ASH!
IT'S
ALL IN
FUN!

RIGHT ON
MINA, BUT ASH
DOES HAVE A
POINT!

JUST BECAUSE
SUGAH-HOG IS FAST
DOESN'T MEAN HE'S
ACCURATE!

In answer to
a zillion reader
requests...

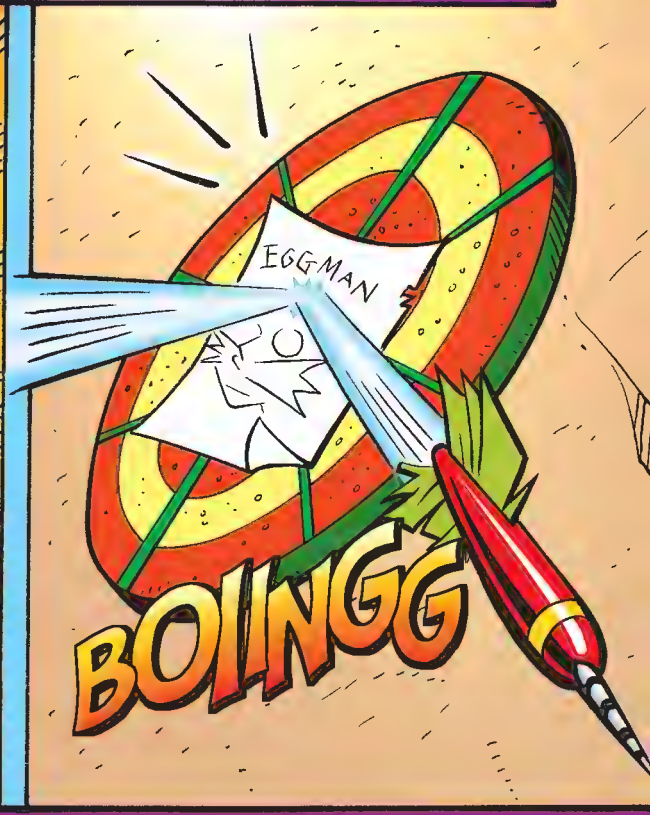
WRITER
KEN PENDERS
ARTIST
DAWN BEST

HARBINGER

INKER
JIM AMASH
LETTERER
JEFF POWELL
COLORIST
JASON JENSEN



AND IF YOU
DOUBT--
--JUST
WATCH!



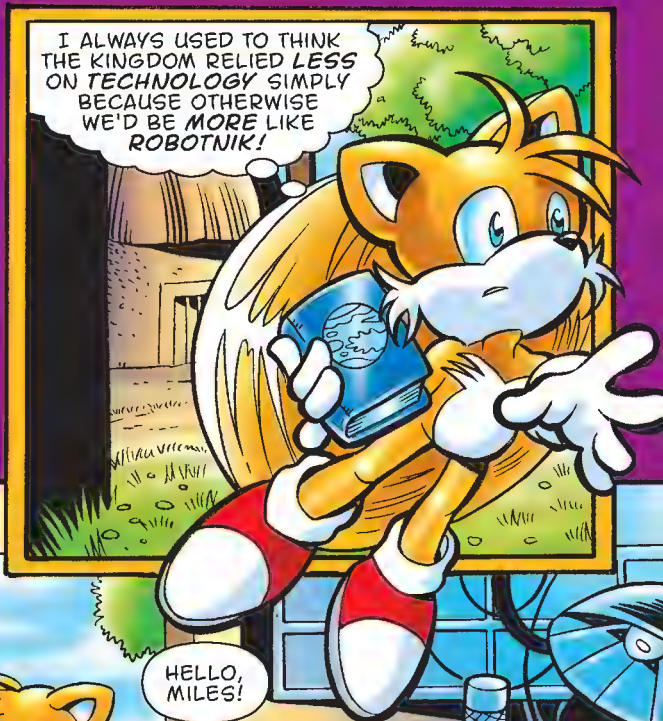




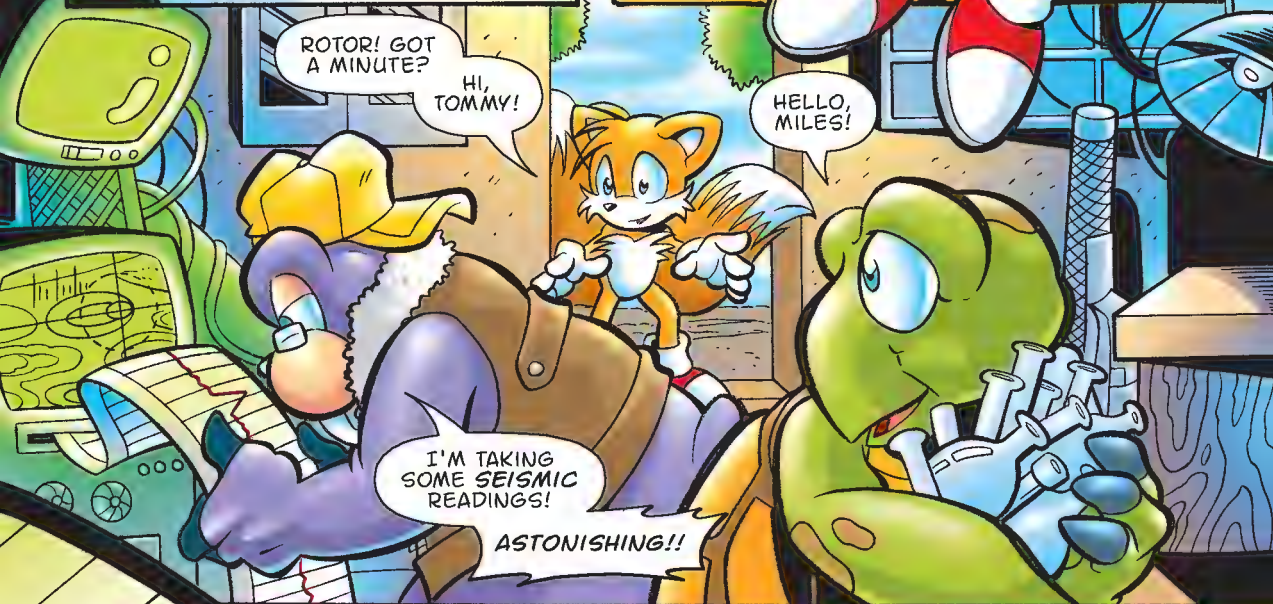
SIZZLING
SWATBOTS!!

WHO'DA
THOUGHT?

COULD
IT BE
TRUE?



I ALWAYS USED TO THINK
THE KINGDOM RELIED LESS
ON TECHNOLOGY SIMPLY
BECAUSE OTHERWISE
WE'D BE MORE LIKE
ROBOTNIK!



ROTOR! GOT
A MINUTE?

HI,
TOMMY!

HELLO,
MILES!

I'M TAKING
SOME SEISMIC
READINGS!

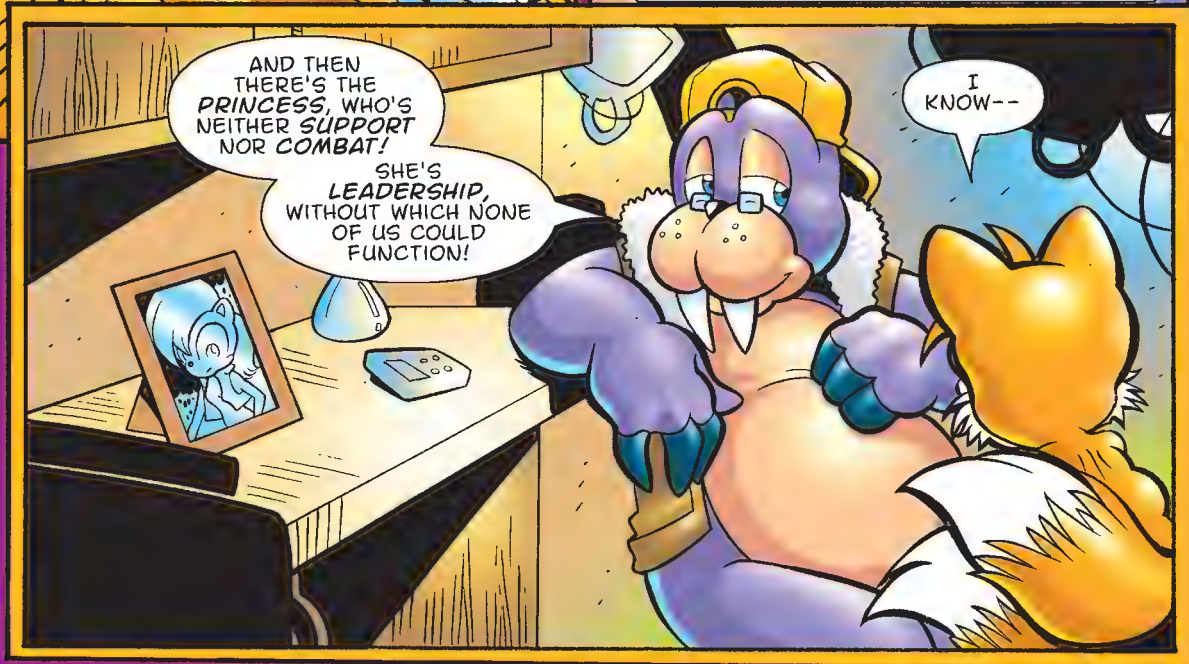
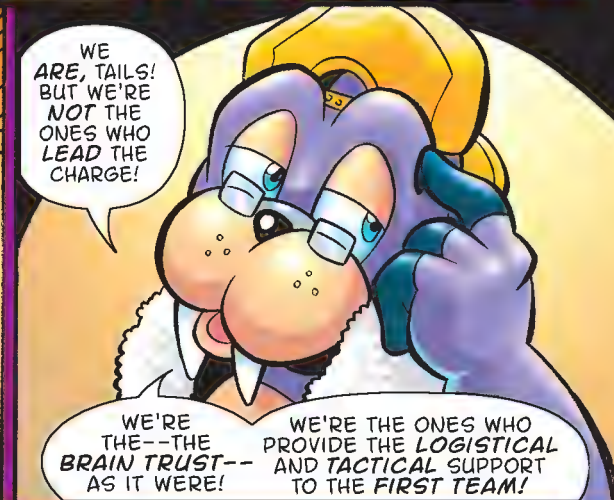
ASTONISHING!!

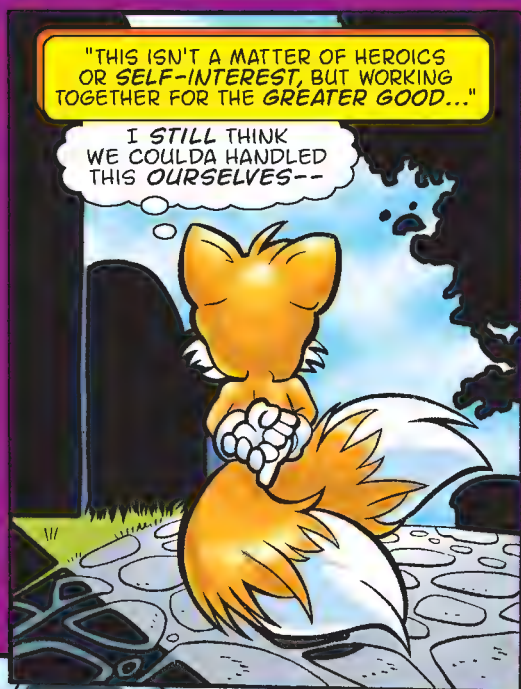
"A SINGLE SEISMIC EVENT
WITH A HIGH SPIKE AND ZERO
AFTERSHOCKS OUT IN THE
MIDDLE OF ESSENTIALLY
NOWHERE!"

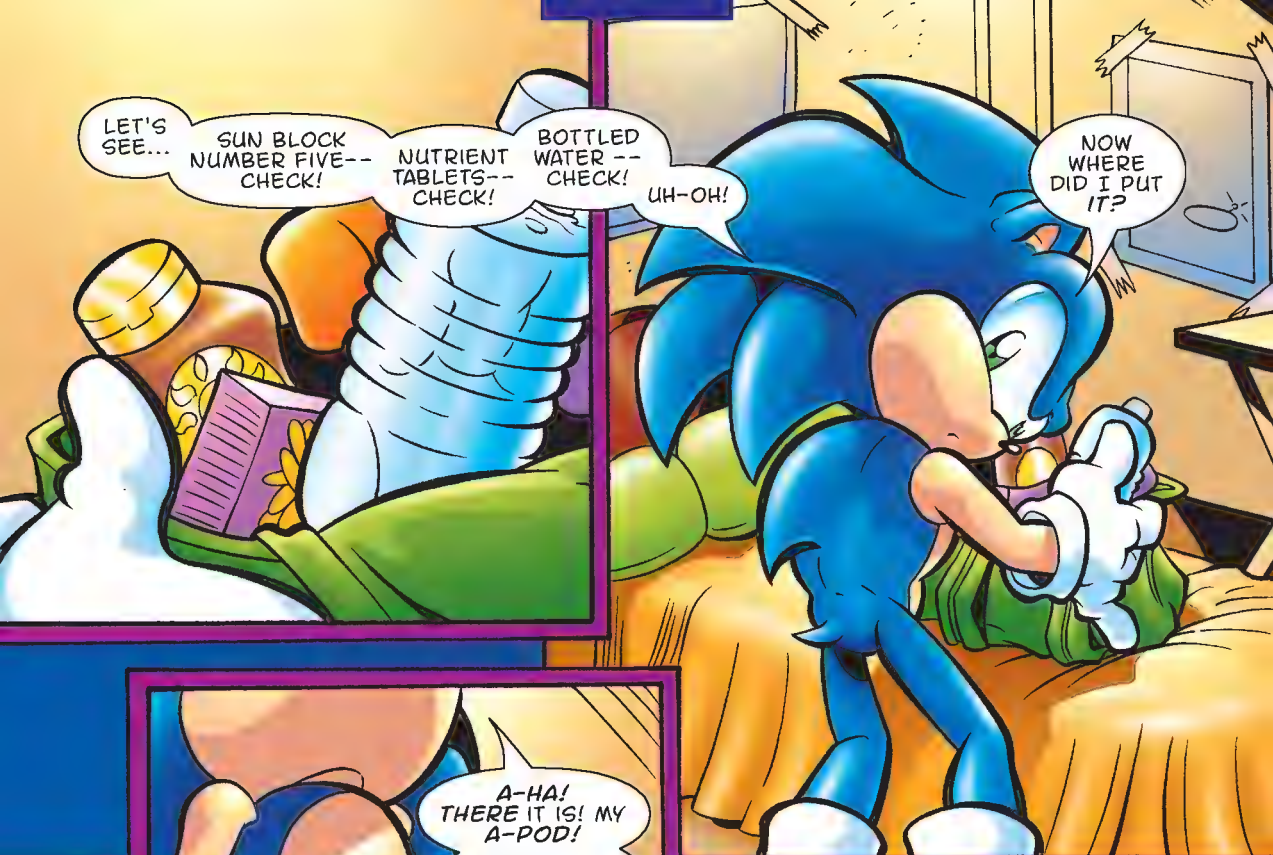
SO
WHAT DOES IT
MEAN?

SOMEBODY--
OR SOME THING--
A FORCE OF SOME
KIND--EXERTED
ENOUGH ENERGY AT
ONE POINT TO DO
SERIOUS DAMAGE
TO KNOTHOLE!

SO YOU
THINK IT'S A
THREAT?







LET'S
SEE...

SUN BLOCK
NUMBER FIVE--
CHECK!

NUTRIENT
TABLETS--
CHECK!

BOTTLED
WATER --
CHECK!

UH-OH!

NOW
WHERE
DID I PUT
IT?



A-HA!
THERE IT IS! MY
A-POD!

DEFINITELY
CAN'T LEAVE
HOME WITHOUT
MY TUNES!

"THAT ABOUT DOES IT!
TIME TO BEAT FEET TO
THE HANGAR WHERE THE
GANG IS MEETING..."



HEY,
GUYS!

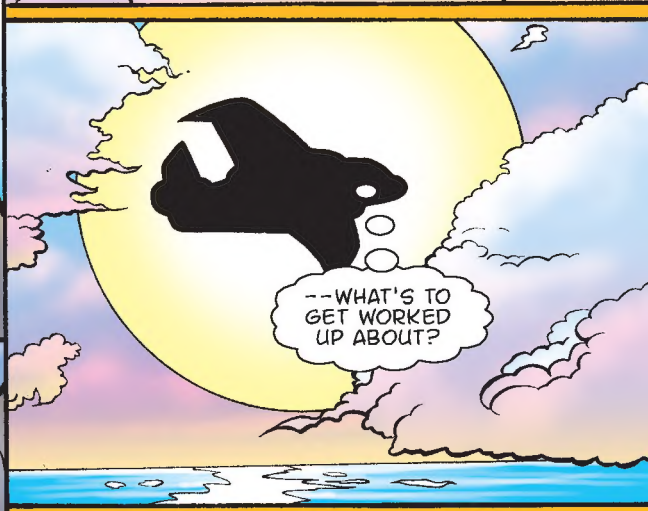
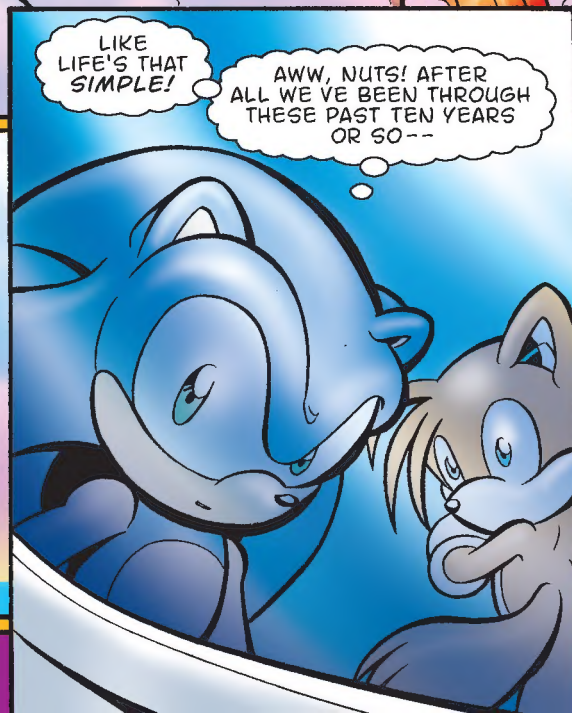
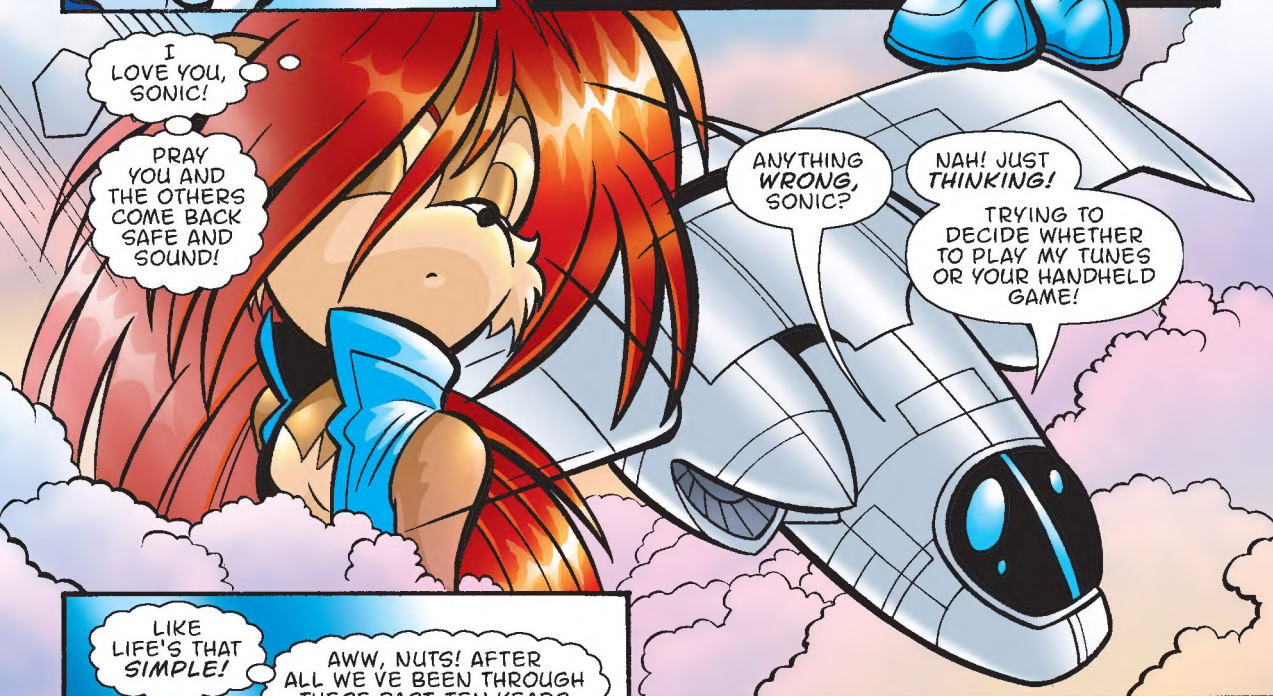
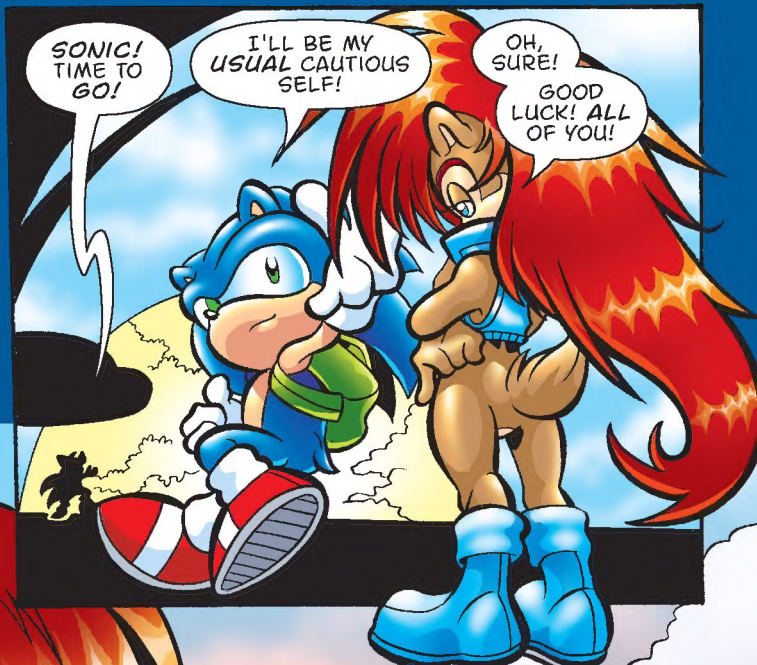
ARE WE
READY TO
GO?

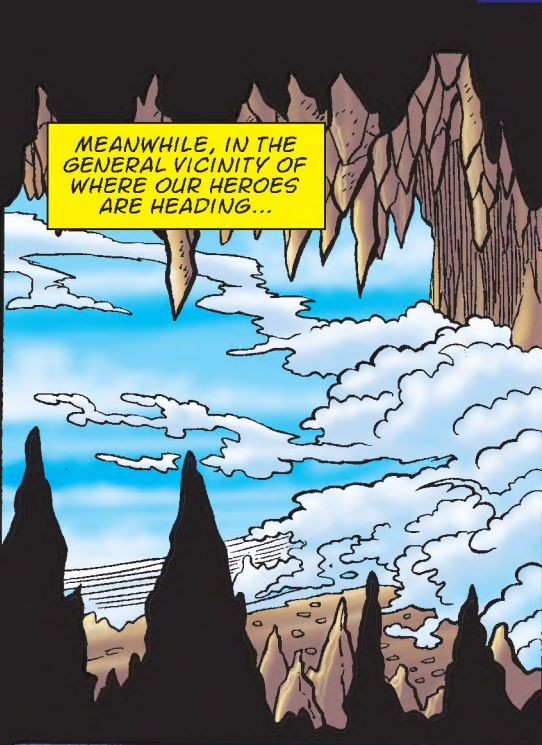
JUST ABOUT,
SONIC! THE GUYS ARE
FINISHING LOADING
THE REMAINING
EQUIPMENT!



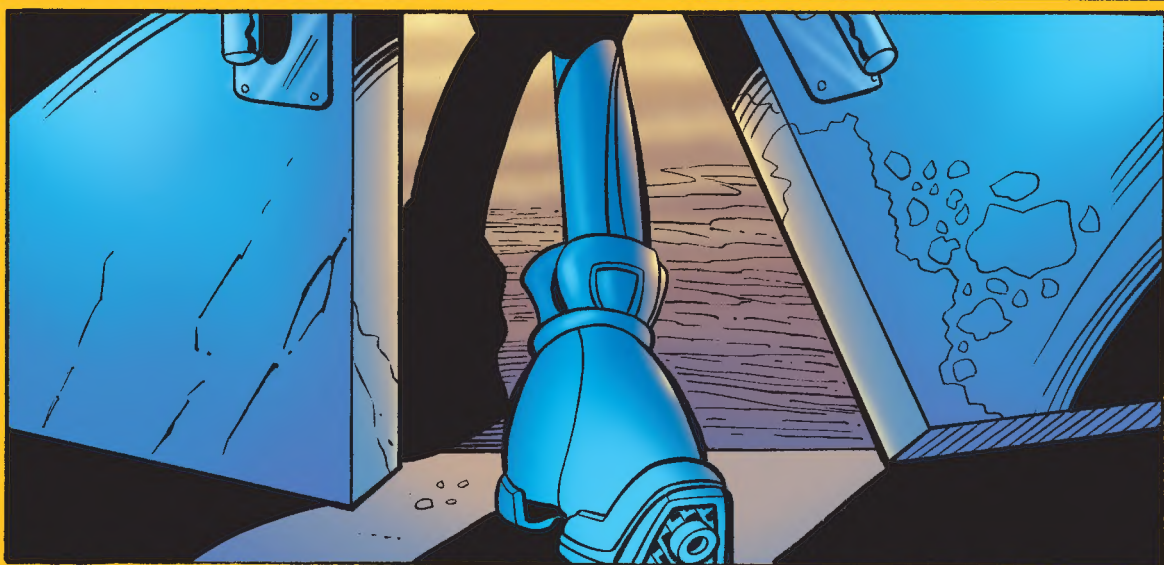
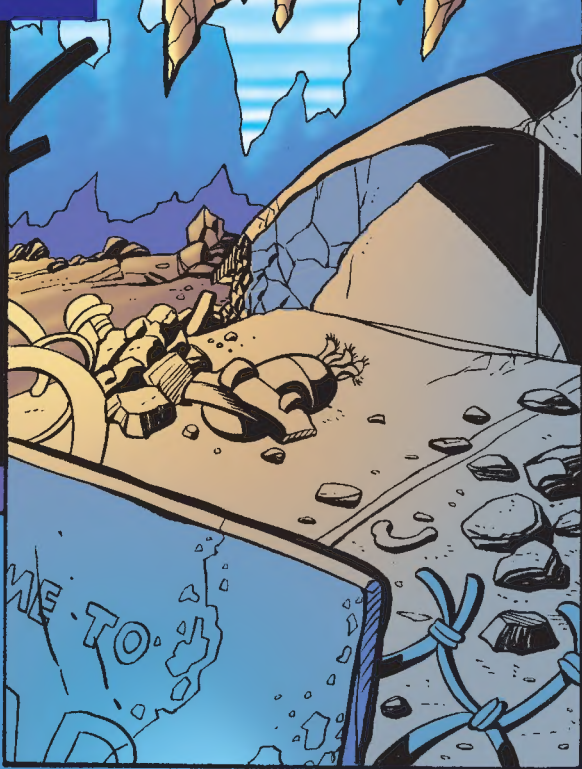
I CAME
BY TO WISH
YOU WELL!

DON'T
WORRY!
WE'LL BE
FINE!





MEANWHILE, IN THE
GENERAL VICINITY OF
WHERE OUR HEROES
ARE HEADING...



THE **PROTOTYPE**
FROM PROFESSOR
GERALD'S ENCRYPTED
DATA-FILES!

NOW
THAT I'VE
DISCOVERED
IT--

**WHAT
NEXT?**

TO BE CONTINUED

LETTERS

DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF FAN RESPONSE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLY TO EACH FAN. SPACE LIMITATIONS MAY REQUIRE SOME PRINTED LETTERS TO BE EDITED. ALL YOUR LETTERS ARE APPRECIATED!

Is there some secret code to get your letter in the next issue? I've read all of the letters, and this is what I've found: all of them say something funny, something about Spaz, and then that they are the #1 fan. So here I go:
Want to hear the joke about the ceiling fan? Never mind, it's way over your head. HA HA!!! It's funny. Spaz rocks! I'm the #1 fan.
Put this in to clarify my theory. Or to say that I'm wrong. Whichever.

-AREO THE HEDGEHOG
E-MAILED TO: SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

While I find your theory interesting, clever and well thought out, it is simply not true. We base our selection on a series of mathematical factors and formulas. One such factor is how many Shameless Plugs I can fit in. Sometimes... just a coin flip.

Dear SONIC-GRAMS, I think you guys have been making the best comic series ever created. I have been a fan of your work since about issue #90. What were the names of all the other SONIC cartoons that came out?

First was SONIC THE HEDGEHOG and THE ADVENTURES OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (1992) which is where a lot of faces from the comic book first showed up. Then SONIC THE HEDGEHOG THE MOVIE (1998) which is ultra cool and you can find on DVD. Then came SONIC UNDERGROUND (1999) which we did a way cool tie-in with SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #10 and of course SONIC X on the tube now. Did I mention we are going to do a new SONIC X mini-series? Oh it's gonna be sweet.

Why not take a poll with all the readers to vote for the character they want back the most.

Good idea. So get your old SONIC comics and games

out and let us know who you want to see for the first time, or a character you'd like to return. If you need some classic games get the SONIC MEGA COLLECTION PLUS or some classic SONIC comics. Use the SONIC CHECKLIST in this comic. (SHAMELESS PLUG #1)

I vote SHADOW, because we've barely ever see him. Good luck to you in the future. Can you put AMY in?

Hey! only one vote per SONIC fan!

I've been reading SONIC comics ever since I was 8 years old. (SHADOW Rocks!!!!) I know SHADOW is the ultimate life form, bio-engineered by the world famous PROFESSOR GERALD. Can you tell me more about him and why he is not featured in the comic more often?

-NINA CAFARO
SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Well Nina I hope this issue has answered some of your questions. Don't miss issues 146 through 149. Shadow will be playing a major role in the comic.

Why can't you use the Chaos emeralds to roboticize SONIC's dad?

That is because JULES (SONIC'S dad) was mortally injured before he was roboticized. So if the process was to be reversed his old body would be so weak that he could not survive.

Thank you, your comic is my birthday and Christmas gifts.

Sonic comics make great gifts! You can use the SONIC

CHECKLIST to get your pals gifts! (SHAMELESS PLUG #2)

This ending to the ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS was kind of cheap, roboticizing them and sending them into the Void (Since when have you called it the Void?)

Yeah, but the Zone of Silence sounds like they got detention or something!

Not to be rude but that was kind of cheesy. Do not say "the power of cheese."

I would never say that...I'm lactose intolerant.

M25YL:FATHER'S DAY story hit very close to home. A relative of mine passed away recently, almost the same way. Thank you for listening.

I am sorry to hear of your loss. I hope the story helped you in some way. And thank you for reading this comic.

-RICO FERNANDEZ
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FIND YOUR NAME IN PRINT:

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START

This is going to be one of the most exciting years for SONIC! We immediately kick things into high gear with the return of SHADOW in "THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UNKNOWN", which we lovingly dubbed "GBU" around the office. And as you have just read the prelude in this comic (unless you're odd and read this page first) you should be very juiced up!

Then, of course, right after "GBU" we have the milestone 150th issue! That is if SONIC can make it after a battle with SHADOW and friends! (Or is it enemies?) Don't worry, you'll know what I mean next month!

After announcing the new SONIC X mini series (Coming Summer 2005) and that Spaz will be doing SONIC and SONIC X covers, we have gotten a ton of fan questions! All I can tell you is I just read the SONIC X storyline for what we are planning and you will love it! There is this one scene where SONIC has to fight one of EGGMANS' robots, but what SONIC doesn't know...actually I can't tell you that. You will just have to wait and read your own issue of SONIC X!

I can tell you that we have some contests coming up!
Told you it would be an exciting year.

MIKE

NEXT ISSUE:



GBU: PROTOTYPE 1 of 4:
The showdown every Sonic fan has waited for...Sonic vs. Shadow! And if Shadow wasn't enough, other threats both old and new are lurking in the darkness.

OUT OF YOUR SHELL:
Tommy returns too! But how can he fit in? What's a lonely turtle to do?

CIRCUIT ME:
When a lab accident goes wrong will N.I.C.O.L.E. leave Princess Sally trapped for a chance at life?

OFF-PANEL



Words: Mike Gallagher
Pictures: Dave Manak
Colors: Henri Ratisse

